

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Dquagliana@aol.com
Subject: [5406] 15m QRP radio in November CQ Magazine (or: Attention RS-12 users!)
Message-ID: <951111025447_19193732@emout04.mail.aol.com>

I didn't see anyone mention this on QRP-L. Is everyone so busy chasing the fox and converting UTC that they stopped reading the magazines? :-)

The November 1995 issue of _CQ_ has an article detailing the construction of a QRP CW transceiver for 15m. Some random comments (mine):

- o dual conversion
- o crystal filtered IF at 1.8432Mhz
- o 3.25 Mhz VFO / 16 Mhz HFO (crystal oscillator)
- o uses NE602 / MC1350 / LM301AN / LM380
- o shaped keyer
- o TR-switching
- o pin-diode attenuator
- o wide/narrow audio filter
- o 1.4 watts out
- o optionally add digital frequency readout (from Howes)

Pluses: good write-up, schematics and description. No really weird parts.

Minuses: no circuit board patterns, lots of coils/transformers/toroids to wind (I counted twenty-one).

With some thought and a few modifications, one might be able to construct just the transmitter section and a small 5w amp for generating a QRP uplink on the RS-12 satellite (15m up/10m down). Just add a 10m receiver, and (if you have an Advanced or Extra class license) you're ready to get on RS-12! I'd *LOVE* to eventually get on RS-12 with all homebrew QRP gear. Anyone else?

ObQRP-L: My SWL-40 is almost done.

Doug KA2UPW
dquagliana@aol.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: V\$BCIESLAK@china.qgraph.com

Subject: [5374] Be Patient and the code speed will come
Message-ID: <01HXH47WZI7600TGCL@hub.qgraph.com>

A lot of the guys you hear on the air casually chatting at 30-40wpm have been (except for a few gifted folks) at it for a few years. It took me 10 years to get through the ranks of licenses, building the code speed as I went. Now I listen to guys I think are sending 5 or 10 wpm and find out their actually sending 20 wpm. It actually get tougher to slow down.

Those who are struggling to get to 20 wpm try copying someone at 5 or 10 you'll be surprised how far you've come...Remember your early days when somewhen sending 10 wpm thru you into a panic.

What did you do to get to that level that in your early days you thought was incredibly fast? Chances are you just gained experience.

So be patient, use the code and the speed will come. I have to applaud you guys who are trying....It takes a lot of workBravo for not taking the easy way out.

Brian AE9K

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Marshall Emm <75230.1405@compuserve.com>
Subject: [5370] CMOS III comments
Message-ID: <951110160644_75230.1405_HHB54-3@CompuServe.COM>

I suppose discussion of a keyer doesn't have a whole lot to do with QRP necessarily, so I'll justify the bandwidth on the basis that I used the CMOS III to work the fox last night [g].

Now that I have used it on air I have really fallen in love with it, (apart from the RF hash). But one thing that bothered me slightly was that there is no command to set a specific wpm speed (except to embed one in a message). I was so used to punching in the speed with the AEA CK2 that this was something of a problem-- setting a range, and then setting the actual speed with the knob.

Turns out there is a way to set a single speed, and maybe two ways. To set an absolute speed of 22 wpm, you use [F] R2222, in other words, tell it the range is 22 to 22. I was expecting it to "raspberry" but it accepts it and uses it.

I presume it would also be possible to program a speed setting command into a memory, all by itself.

What other handy tricks have people discovered?

I wish Idiom were a little more responsive, because I'd sure like to make a suggestion or two-- like allowing edit from the START of a message, and a function to copy one memory to another.

Well, we'll cover that sort of thing in a review and see if anybody notices [g].

73/72
Marshall

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: [5372] CQ INET (fox hunters)
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951110082128.10494A-100000@crl9.crl.com>

Fellow fox hunters and prospective fox hunters,

In his original FOX announcement, Chuck stated (regarding the Fox hunt)
"It is and has always been to generate QRP on the air activity during the week". In his next paragraph, he states "I still feel strongly that QRPers have got to get on the air."

I get the idea from some of the posts that I have seen, that many of the "hunters" are not doing anything except listening for the fox.

Lets assume that there are probably about 40 to 50 hunters out there listening intently for the fox. Why not work each other? Call CQ INET or CQ QRPL or CQ IQ or something and attempt to work one of the other list members.

Take a few minutes out from your concentrated hunting and try to raise a few other Fox hunters. If your havent heard the fox after 30 minutes to an hour, then go call CQ INET.

I know that there are other QRP-1 members doing this, so join the crowd. To me, this is one of the best parts of the evenings hunt activity. I love to talk to QRP-1 folks on the air.

BTW, one of the very best ways of building your code speed and confidence is to get into QS0s.

Happy hunting and CQ INET,

Smitty, NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: rossi@VFL.Paramax.COM (Pete Rossi)
Subject: [5400] Fox *really* got away.
Message-ID: <9511110301.AA00904@gvlf6-a>

Started listening for the FOX at 0200 on 7040. Right on schedule there he was nice and loud.. calling CQ. I figured THIS IS GREAT! He should be easy to work.. but then >poof< he was gone. Never to be heard again. Listened for about 30 minutes... then the phone rang.. and that was it for the night.

Next?

Pete Rossi - WA3NNA
rossi@vfl.paramax.com
Loral Defense Systems-Eagan (formerly Unisys Government Systems Group)
Valley Forge Engineering Center - Paoli, Pennsylvania

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Marshall Emm <75230.1405@compuserve.com>
Subject: [5381] Fox in the bag.
Message-ID: <951110174925_75230.1405_HHB32-1@CompuServe.COM>

I wasn't going to say much if anything about working the fox last night, but then I saw all the reports of failure and I guess some of you need to be reassured that it can in fact be done [g].

Here near Denver Clay's signal was up and down like a yo-yo. I logged giving him a 3/3/9 and getting 4/2/9, and I think when he asked for a repeated report I was able to go to 4/4/9, with the only readability problem being QRM. Half an hour after I worked him he was booming into Denver, S7 or so; other CQC members said he was S9 or even over, but I report by ear on 40. My S-meter is deaf on 40. Well, not deaf, just stingy, but with the narrow filter, notch filter and APF engaged the meter usually does drop down to 0 and sit there.

Anyhow, it was my first attempt at fox-hunting and he came back after about the third call, so what's the big deal? [BSEG].

73

Marshall
AA0XI

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Wynn C C <wyn@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>
Subject: [5367] FOX: Report for Fri Nov.10 UTC, Thursday Nov.9 local run
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.951110102640.25084A-100000@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>

Fox Report Thursday Nov.9 local, Nov.10 UTC 0100-0150 7.110 MHz

=====

Hi gang,

I heard you out there but could not complete a QSO. The BC stations on both sides had my receiver wiped out. Their sidebands were right on my passband. Couldn't get away without going way off below.

I heard:

KF4TN KK5KX W6ZH KI3AMX KA3NIJ KC5R0K and a few more.

I only got the sig report for W6ZH, 439 439 CA.

Fox Report Thursday Nov.9 local, Nov.10 UTC 0200-0300 7.040 MHz

=====

Noise level was better here. Still had some packet, and QRO, not much SA SSB this time, just some "Olah"'s. Propagation was poor.

Time	Call	His RST	My RST	Name	QTH	Comments
0200	KA3WMJ	?	?	?	?	Sorry, my fault
0210	W6ZH	449	449	Pete	CA	
0215	WA3JPG	339	339	Clark	CA	
0217	W1HUE	449	559	Larry	ID	
0230	KC5FGE	?	?	?	?	
0235	KF20N	?	?	?	?	
0238	KB5AA	?	?	?	?	
0240	AA0XI	379	449	Marshall	CO	
0256	N6ULU	449	449	Stan	CA	up 3
0259	KA5T	339	?	Larry	TX	up 3

Note to the Dit-dit(c)meister: Perhaps should do something about 7.110 MHz and the fox hunt. It has become practically useless after 8:00PM EST here. Not fair for the Novii and Tech+. Maybe East Coast should start at 2300UTC, or maybe get a new hailing frequency.

On another note, is there an award for the longest running thread on a fox schedule? ;-).

72/73,
Clay N4A0X
wyn@ornl.gov

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: genunn@mmm.com
Subject: [5401] Fox: sked Thursday
Message-ID: <199511110405.AA296062720@pigseye.mmm.com>

Hi foxhunters!

My turn in the barrel is coming up fast! I'll be on Thursday, Nov 16 (local) from Columbia, Missouri with my venerable Icom IC-701 turned down to 4.5 watts. I had hoped the Explorer II would arrive in time to attend to the foxly task, but OHR's silkscreen difficulty has delayed it :-)

My 40m skyloop got blown out of the trees (again) so it's back to the dipole (up 15 - 20', oriented roughly N-S) unless I take time out from deer hunting or bag a big buck before Thursday. Season opens in Missouri this weekend. My daughters no longer protest my hunting trips - they've figured out that Bambi is pretty safe from me - at least he has been so far :-)

My schedule will be:

Freq:	Time UTC	Time CST
7110+	0200-0215 17 Nov	8:00- 8:15 PM 16 Nov
7040+	0215-0400 17 Nov	8:15-10:00 PM 16 Nov

The 303 QSO's I worked in SS (Chuck and others here caught me running in the 100 watt class) have my max rate up to 30 wpm or so, but answer me at whatever's comfortable for you and I'll try to match it.

Good luck & 73
Greg AA0XZ
--

Greg Nunn
Senior Systems Engineer
3M Electronic Products Division
genunn@mmm.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995

From: "David F. Kurth" <dfk@col.hp.com>
Subject: [5379] Half point for fox hunt?
Message-ID: <199511101745.AA139005530@alien17.col.hp.com>

Another try at the Fox last night from Colorado.

I got home just before 6pm (0100) and ran right by the XYL and upstairs to the shack. Turned the rig on and found N4AOX calling CQ at 0106 on 7110.8. I called back, but he was wiped out by the wife was using the microwave to make dinner. So I took a break.

Heard him again at 0116 on 7111.2 with the microwave off, but then he was gone again. At 0623, I called for the fox, but no response. The wife turned the hand mixer on (mashed potatoes), so I took another break.

At 0130, I heard the fox again on 7111.1 and returned his call. I heard nothing come back. By 0134 I was ready to quit.

At 0136, I heard "de N4AOX" on 7112.1. I was ready to call, but then heard W6ZH reply. He was much stronger than Clay. I copied W6ZH's name as TEP, and then later as TEPET. I thought that was a strange name. Then today I see the fox report, and the name was PETE. Makes much more sense that way. I then heard Pete give Clay an RST of 339, and later on a repeat he reported 439. I couldn't stay around anymore, had to catch dinner and then a meeting until 0330. No more fox hunting :-).

This is the first fox I've heard east of the Mississippi, and only the second fox I've heard. I was disappointed he didn't hear me, so either he had noise problems, or I'm not getting out.

Eagerly waiting for Nov 21 when N9UXU will be on until 11PM local. (The one on ONLY one who will be on 9-11.) Then I won't have to fight the microwave, mixers, dinner, and meetings.

73 Dave N0UVR
Colorado Springs, CO

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Michael Connor <mikec@primenet.com>
Subject: [5387] Keyer board in Whiterook paddles
Message-ID: <199511101933.MAA21475@usr5.primenet.com>

While finishing up the keyer board for my OHR400 project I remembered reading about someone who had squeezed a keyer into the Whiterook paddles. Since I had the OHR keyer board in my hand and a Whiterook on the bench, I decided

to see how close the keyer board would come to fitting. Here is what I discovered:
The keyer fit almost perfectly with the exception of being between 1/16" & 1/8" too long on one end. Filing that end of the board down would make it fall right in. There is nothing but ground plane on the foil side of that end of the board so no traces are in jeopardy. The wiring that's going to the lugs on the keyer arms would have to be wired directly to the bolts on the keyer arms, eliminating the lugs for more clearance. The variable resistor on the board (weight control) may have to be replaced (or bent over a little) for clearance.
The only other obstacle would be getting 12V to the board. If you eliminate the jack on the back of the paddles and wire directly to the keyer/paddles with a 3ft piece of 4 or 6 conductor wire, you could use a couple of wires for dot/dash, and the other wires to pull 12V off the radio through a connector on the back panel of the rig. It might make a nice little combo.

I haven't personally tried this mod yet, as the keyer board went into the OHR400, but I have another keyer board on order from OHR. I'll post results once I get it working if anyone is interested.

Cheers,
Mike
NQ7K

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Greg Prior <73517.3652@compuserve.com>
Subject: [5386] No Fox at 7:00 PDT
Message-ID: <951110190423_73517.3652_HHB28-1@CompuServe.COM>

Hi all-

Didn't hear the Fox hear on the West coast. Of course, my rig was 15 miles away! I was still at work at 7:00. Any chance the Fox can stay on a little later for those of who are work challenged? (I think I got the time right).

73 - Greg AC6IY

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: LVE1@inel.gov (Larry East)
Subject: [5375] OH Expoloer II Kits
Message-ID: <9511101657.AA15199@garnet.inel.gov>

I just talked to Dick (?) at Oak Hills and asked about the progress of the Explorer II kits. Seems that the outfit that silkscreened the front panels botched the job, so he is redoing them himself. He expects to begin shipping by the end of next week. First orders in, first kits out... about 80 ready to go except for the front panels.

72, Larry.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Robsparks@aol.com
Subject: [5388] OHR group buy : any Explorers yet?
Message-ID: <951110143618_18597443@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Hi Folks,

Has anyone out there received their Explorer from the OHR group buy?

Restless in LA

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: "rohre" <rohre@arlut.utexas.edu>
Subject: [5396] Please list your antennas in Fox rpt.
Message-ID: <n1396102925.519@msmailgw1.arlut.utexas.edu>

The luxury of being gone for a week has caused me to read a lot of Fox reports in one afternoon and I find they would be FAR more useful, if each would briefly describe their antenna, such as "E-W dipole up 33 feet, coax fed, no balun". That way, we could perhaps derive some ideas as to what antennas hear/ transmit well at what ranges from the FOX.

Foxes, could you please list your geographic location in your post of the schedule before your operation?

THANKS,
Stuart K5KVH

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [5394] Propagation Studies
Message-ID: <199511102145.VAA16142@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Gang,

Check out the October 1995 issue of QST, page 46.

"Propagation Pioneers: The ARRL-Bureau of Standards Experiment"
by Robert Welsh, N3RW. Looks like propagation studies go back
to the early '20s in the ham radio world.

Another interesting read.

dit dit

--

Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: ashworth@plaza.ds.adp.com (Dennis Ashworth)
Subject: [5373] QRP & Contests
Message-ID: <9511101636.AA28747@adphdw20>

Here's an excerpt of a message posted on the Contest Reflector by W6QHS
which I believe provides constructive feedback tips for QRP'ers operating in
contests. I've snipped the materials unrelated to the topic to conserve
bandwidth. (W6QHS has approved the concept of re-posting his message onto
QRP-L) ...

==== begin Dave's message ===

>>Sender: owner-cq-contest@tgv.com
>>Date: Tue, 7 Nov 95 02:14 EST
>>From: David & Barbara Leeson <0005543629@mcimail.com>
>>Reply-To: David & Barbara Leeson <0005543629@mcimail.com>
>>To: cq-contest <cq-contest@tgv.com>

Begin QRP relevant text:

I like the number of QRP stations, but some send everything twice and very slowly, so you can lose your frequency by the time they're done! How about sending once, with request for ack, such as the "R" in the QTC mode of WAE? A QRP station having any doubts about signal strength could send NR NNN Q CALL QSL?, then get an "R" from the QRO end to indicate the frequency is in use to passers-by, then send the rest with another QSL? at the end. This would be a greatly appreciated courtesy to a station trying to hold on to a hard-earned run frequency. Only the missed stuff would be sent again in response to, say, "AGN".
73 de Dave, W6QHS

=== end Dave's message ===

I guess the message I derive from Dave's comments is we should not assume our signals are so weak that auto-repeating of exchanges is necessary.

I would add my personal observation that some (not all) operators feel they must send information S-L-O-W-E-R when in QRP mode. I've caught myself in this habit. This also can be a frustration for the contester. If slow (obviously a relative term) is your natural CW send/receive speed, then that's fine and desired. However, if you're subconsciously sending slower because you're in QRP mode, speeding up to your maximum comfortable send/receive speed would likely be appreciated by the fast running contester.

Food for thought ... It was great to hear all the QRP activity in SS!

Dennis, K7FL
Oregon City, OR
ashworth@plaza.ds.adp.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Marshall Emm <75230.1405@compuserve.com>
Subject: [5382] QRP QSO Format
Message-ID: <951110174933_75230.1405_HHB32-2@CompuServe.COM>

This is going to open up a real can of worms, but what the heck!

As one who occasionally writes about CW operation I have been pondering the structure of QRP QSOs. A "normal" QSO follows a fairly rigid pattern of exchanged information: I call CQ, you answer, I thank you for the call and give you RST, name and QTH. You respond with similar, then I give you rig,

power, antenna. You tell me my rig is doing FB and then give me your setup. Then we take off into more variable or even rag-chew territory if we feel like doing that. It's a rigid but effective format, and an almost universal standard, and you're treading on thin ice if you depart from it. Don't believe me? Try asking a question during the first "over" with a strange QRO station!

But the QRP QSO is different, for a number of reasons.

First, it's a given that we are going to try very hard to work each other, and not just send SRI NO CPI 73 if readability is less than 5. CW ops are the last gentleman hams, and the QRP guys are the cream of the crop, even if we have to say so ourselves [g].

We know conditions might change momentarily, so we try to get the critical info (report, QTH as s/p/c, and power) across as quickly as possible, often (quite properly) breaking back and forth without sending callsigns. Name, more specific location, and equipment come after that, condx permitting.

So, my question for the group is this-- should we think about adopting a standard QRP QSO format? I haven't given this a LOT of thought, but a starting point for discussion could be:

```
CQ....N4AOX/QRP K
DE AA0XI AA0XI/QRP K
AA0XI R 329 329 TN TN HW? BK
RR BT 249QSB 249QSB CO CO BK
..
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By this time we know whether it's going to work and can relax back into more standard territory, giving name, town and power on the next, or otherwise
TU 72 72....

What do you think?

```
73
Marshall
AA0XI
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From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Dave Hockaday <wb4iuy@nando.net>
Subject: [5365] QRP SS and foxhunt...
Message-ID: <9511101519.AA19992@merlin.nando.net>

I'm fairly new to the group. You folks have rekindled my interest in QRP to

the extent that I worked the SS this past weekend as QRP. I'm interested in this FOX stuff I'm reading about. Can someone enlighten me as to schedules (if there are such), standard frequencies, etc? Thanks!

73 de Dave WB4IUY

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: "John F. Jarvis" <jfj@pacer1.usca.sc.edu>
Subject: [5399] QRP+ microphone
Message-ID: <199511110240.VAA03481@pacer1.usca.sc.edu>

Has anyone sucessfully used the Radio Shack 19-310 Speaker/Microphone with the QRP+. A confirmation that it can be made to work would be nice before I start hacking on it.

Thanks, John Jarvis KE2WB

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Mike Rioux <mrioux@ftp.com>
Subject: [5369] QRP+ Mods
Message-ID: <MAPI.Id.0016.0072696f757820203733423030323245@MAPI.to.RFC822>

Is there a FAQ or list of mods for the QRP+? I'm interested in the mod that has been mentioned about increasing the SSB power out by installing a couple of pots in the mic amp circuit. My QRP+ seems to put out about 1.5W on SSB. TNX.

Mike Rioux, NW1J 508-659-6347
FTP Software, Inc. FAX: 508-659-6112
2 High St. mrioux@ftp.com
No. Andover, MA 01845
Six of One

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: ssalgaller@CCGATE.HAC.COM
Subject: [5391] SPDT Mercury Wetted Relay Source
Message-ID: <9510108160.AA816039523@CCGATE.HAC.COM>

I noticed a SPDT (not SPST) Mercury wetted relay in my C+H Sales Catalog. The good news is that it's SPDT and runs on 12 Volts; The bad news is that it's not dip size - the dimensions are 5/8" wide by 2" long by 5/8" high. If still OK for use, order # RL9454 @ \$5 each. C+H is at (800) 325-9465
Stephen S.
WA3ZGT
PS: Usual disclaimer applies.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: bfinch@asp.vet.purdue.edu (Robert Finch)
Subject: [5363] state of affairs, cascade errata
Message-ID: <9511101540.AA01401@asp.vet.purdue.edu>

well after crashes on my computer (main one), car problems, babysitting my daughter ALOT, work, plumbing concerns, and having the flu....well this has fallen thru the cracks... hope to get to the cascade errata soon now....
(bob dyer sez i shud)...(hi)....baab,n6cxb

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: "rohre" <rohre@arlut.utexas.edu>
Subject: [5389] Tips for fox hunting antennas (long)
Message-ID: <n1396111715.71126@msmailgw1.arlut.utexas.edu>

Being (unfortunately) working a job most Fox nites, I can only help by raising some obvious tips for better performance from your QRP antennas.

Many QRP stations seem to also face not having the highest or longest antennas.

Thus, to get the most out of the antenna setup or location they have; you must be sure the antenna you use is working to its full extent. For those with years of experience, please pardon the following bandwidth.

To hear the FOX, you have to have an antenna that is either out of the local noise environment of light dimmers, noisy power lines, etc., or use methods of reception that do not favor the noise which is usually an electric field effect more than magnetic field. If you can't turn off the noise sources in your neighborhood, you lower your own noise floor, relative to the weak FOX signal. Do make an effort to stay on top of the noisy power lines that crop up, and notify the interference troubleshooting department of your electric utility. Line noise is lost power to them that is not being metered to the users, thus they have a vested interest in cleaning up lines. Next, you have to find any noise sources at your neighbors due to appliances, dimmers, etc. Faulty door bell transformers and numerous other sources are often the cause of ham band insensitivity. When you have reduced all incoming AC sources of noise, up to even running on batteries to avoid line coupled noise; then a magnetic loop receiving antenna may be the solution to reception of the FOX. The loop lowers your noise floor, even if it does not give gain to the received signal. But the signal to noise ratio is improved for your reception, and this is what counts.

Now, QRP stations, even if they hear the FOX, must transmit to utmost efficiency. Some have had humid or wet weather over the summer and fall. Have you checked for corrosion on antenna bolted or screw joints, or clamped joints? Are your aluminum antenna parts put together with No Ox or similar compound to exclude moisture and corrosion? Is the bolt hardware non rusting, or painted to avoid that? Are copper joints soldered well, and uncorroded by acid rain or flux residues? Are exposed coaxial fittings water free, and with clean threads and insulator faces? Leakage at any of these points or high resistance joints can rob your transmitted QRP signal and you might not be heard by the FOX. I favor having ready access to inspect my coaxial connectors that are outdoors, thus I use a high quality electrical tape, and then inspect my connectors inside and out before the DX season. Another method I have so far had success with, is having sleeving boots to keep water out of inline connectors that came with my commercial vertical.

Now, what about the type of antenna you are using? I think it is optimistic to throw up say 16 feet of wire and expect to get the FOX on 40 meters, unless he lives in your town. I favor resonant antennas; or, if you like random wires, make sure they have a significant fraction of a wavelength for the frequency of interest; I would say at least a quarter wave at 40M to have the best effect. The tuner tunes the "random wire" to a non random resonance at your band; thus why not put up more wire and have gain at that band. I suspect from Ed, N5EM's Field Day experiences with Vee beams at low elevations, (high enough so the cows could walk under them), that this would be a bang up FOX antenna. Chuck's long wire seems to be useful in that it was LOOONG! Orientation of these can be vital as well.

Last year, I noted that on the FOX nites I was on, my all band center fed vertical was hearing Long, ie, it may have been skipping over the FOX. I did work a list member on the east coast and other single long skip stations, but

did not hear the FOX that nite. (I think that was a Mid U.S. FOX.)

The same antenna that works for one FOX may not work for all, unless you are DX to all the Foxes. Horizontal loops of the full wave size may work best for close in Foxes to you. A half wave horizontal dipole at least a quarter wave up may be a pretty good all around resonant antenna for the chase. At this point, I think verticals are probably not the best hunting antennas, unless you are one hop away from the Fox, and a back up wire antenna would be useful.

A half square antenna oriented in the direction of the Foxes would likely be a good receiving and transmitting antenna for its gain. A long wire oriented in a direction such that its lobes favor the FOX may offer gain both ways as well. However, these work best in a non noisy environment that many urban locations lack.

I wonder if anyone is using a shortened rotatable dipole for 40? Or a vee?
>From the Southwestern U.S. Ed covers most of the country for Field Day with three Vee beams, and two were almost as good.

Of course, we all use what we have, but if you have more than one antenna for 40M, you would have the best possible chance of hearing the FOX, which is the first challenge, and then if heard, to work the FOX.

Just a thought also, back on the good connections topic. Someone once listened to a band, and thought there was lots of activity, but could not get out, ie. work the stations. Upon examination of the antenna, less than perfect joints were found that worked like diodes, causing spurious pickup on receive; and the resistance of the bad connections sapped the transmitting power when he called stations. Thus, just because you are hearing signals is not a sufficient test of your antenna! When your antenna is new, make as many measurements as you can, and write down power and SWR that you see in your log for future reference. Be suspicious if your SWR starts to go down on its own, as your antenna ages; you may be loading up an unintended resistance.

Hopefully as you keep trying antennas, you will be renewing connections often enough to not have the bad connections problems; but be alert that if your antenna works with QRO (higher power), it may not be working as well at QRP levels where the induced energy may not break down the accumulating oxides of outdoor antennas.

Well, on to the chase, and good luck to all!

72,

Stuart K5KVH

rohre@arlut.utexas.edu

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995

From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>

Subject: [5366] Yet Another CW-SS Report

Message-ID: <199511101528.IAA20060@usr5.primenet.com>

Hi All,

Having survived my first ever Sweepstakes, I thought I'd share a few thoughts. Ended up with 39 sections and 82 valid QSO's. No pin this time around. $39 \times 82 \times 2 = 6560$ points. Far from a record. Still, considering my code maxes out at 15wpm and I was using a low dipole, I was happy to get out at all. :-) Plus I had alot of fun (thanks to an understanding spouse!) Operating was split fairly even between 40m/15m and Novice/General freqs.

My code speed was **definitely** the limiting factor. Every ham I called (who bothered to listen in between calling CQ) answered me, and about 15 of my QSO's resulted from me calling CQ. Only exception was 4-land - seemed like nobody could hear me down there. Guess my antenna has a major null toward the southeast. Better fix that if I ever want to get QRP WAS...

Highlights:

- Five QRP-QRP contacts. They were out there Chuck. We were just hiding from you to get revenge for hooking us on the fox hunt. :)
- Salvaging a QSO with KJ7EY (Prec. Q) despite Klingons wiping us out several times and forcing us to QSY. Call me stubborn, but there was no way I was going to give that one up! QRP FOREVER!!!
- N6DA (Prec: A), who never gave up on me despite persistent jamming efforts. It's QRO-folks like this that help make QRP fun.
- Working 17 new states.
- Filter on my QRP+. Thank you Index Labs! Never imagined I'd see the day where I'd wish I could actually get **narrower** than 100Hz!!!

Now it's time to deal with all those QSL requests. Anyone know where I can get stamps cheap? Yikes! :)

73/72 de KC7NEV (ex-KD6PRD/7),

-Joe, vole@primenet.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: N5EM@aol.com
Subject: [5377] Re: Antenna site selection
Message-ID: <951110123416_83092053@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-11-09 10:04:12 EST, you write:

>
>So here's the question: at what altitude does a knoll/ridge/hilltop
>become noticeably useful? If I can drive up it, is it any good, or
>should I plan to backpack everything? Now, Arkansas isn't blessed
>with an abundance of accessible mountaintops, but we do have plenty of
>exposed ridges, hills, etc with reasonably tall trees for antenna
>support... any general guidelines for choosing the "better" one?
>
>Thanks es 72/73
>Bob ki5ez
>
>
>

Bob,

Reminds me of the time that I was on vacation in SW Arkansas. We drove up to Queen Wilomena (sorry about the spelling) State Park. After driving around for a while, we stopped at the headquarters (very big house on the top of the ridge) to allow the family a comfort break.

While they were inside I pulled out the ICOM 502A (QRP, SSB 6M), extended the 5 ft. whip, set it on top of the car and proceeded to tune the band. Heard a week station working US folks. After several minutes, I thought I had the call as T32AB. Since I am not an avid DXer, I had no idea where this fellow might be but that never stops me from calling. Got him on the first call, ahead of, and to the dismay of the local Arkansas big guns. 3 Watts PEP, internal C nicads, 5 ft. whip, sitting on my car for a ground plane. Found out later he was in Kirabati (Christmas Island, I think).

So, the moral to the story is that those ridges you got up in Arkansas are really neat places to take your rig to. I hope to get back with the mobile rig and a handful of HamSticks, myself. Wish we could get one of them transported to South Texas. You think you would be willing to sell one? I am sure Ross has enough money to cover it. And Billery has been gone long enough that he'd never miss it.

72
Ed Manuel, N5EM
n5em@aol.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: mvjif@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Subject: [5405] Re: Banquet announcement
Message-ID: <9511100149.AA19499@ig1.att.att.com>

Dennis, K1LGQ..... Pls note

Pete, WK8S.....

Thanks for the announcement for the QRP-NE "72" newsletter.

I will forward it to editor Dennis, K1LGQ.

Pete.... Excellent planning for the Dayton QRP Banquet !

The main event keeps getting better and better
thanks to excellent folks like you.

Also looking forward to the QRP hospitality suite
programs by VO1DRB, Paulette Quick and others.....

What a dynamic bunch.....

Every serious QRPer should attend this #1 event of the year.

Thanks !!!!

72 Jim W1FMR

From: PeterWK8S@aol.com
Subject: Banquet announcement

Hi Jim, W1FMR

Attention QRP'rs!! Announcing the 1996 ARCI QRP Banquet. This annual Dayton Hamvention event will be held on Friday, May 17, 1996, 7:00 PM at the Days Inn of Miamisburg, Ohio. An appetizing sit down dinner will be followed by a special guest speaker and awarding of lots of exciting door prizes. Advance tickets required at a 'true qrp' cost of \$13.00. Tickets will be available starting February 1, 1996 from Pete Meier WK8S. Check or Money Orders including a SASE should be made out to Pete Meier, 4181 Rural,

Waterford, Michigan 48329. See you there.

WK8S

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: RHILT0@acxiom.com
Subject: [5380] Re: CQ INET (fox hunters)
Message-ID: <ec26a3c0@acxiom.com>

Smitty, NA5K said:

>>I get the idea that many of the "hunters" are not doing anything
>>except listening for the fox. Why not work each other? I know that
>>there are other QRP-1 members doing this, so join the crowd.

I did just that last week... it was fun, etc etc.

Until I read the note from Dit-Dit the next morning about some
inconsiderate so-and-so who stepped all over the Fox (it was Chuck
himself that night)... and I felt just awful that I had shot the Fox,
knowing from experience how hard it is to work him.

(Later in the note Chuck said he was overrun by someone he had worked
earlier in the evening, so I knew it wasn't MY signal that got him.
Whew!)

So I agree with Smitty... Fox evenings are great times to work any
QRP-L station... just keep an ear out for the Fox.

7.3,
Bob ki5ez

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: lewise@bga.com
Subject: [5390] Re: CQ INET (fox hunters)
Message-ID: <9511110400.AA0039@localhost>

I think Smitty's idea is a good one...But think about this:

If I haven't heard the FOX I really hesitate to accidentally
QRM him;

and

If I have heard him I'm in there fiddling with the knobs trying to work him til the end. Never can tell when the prop gods may smile...

Of course if the Fox has been worked, why not move away 5khz and call CQ as Smitty suggests....

Suggestion for all the FOXes:

List your location when mailing out the schedule. I like to concentrate on my low dipole for close in stations, and the vertical for far out stations...Once I hear the FOX I try both antennas, but it takes time to flip flop the tuner settings.... No fun if you're still searching.....

Just a thought...

- - - -

Larry E. Wise KA5T lewise@bga.com
206 Sinuso Drive 512-863-5870
Georgetown, Texas 78628-1520

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: "Eugene S. Tehansky" <tehansky@atc.ameritel.net>
Subject: [5398] Re: CQ INET (fox hunters) - order of call...!??!
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.951110183409.22727A-100000@atc.ameritel.net>

It seems to me.....

cq fox cq fox de xx#xxx k - This is the general call used.

cq qrp cq qrp de xx#xxx k - This is somebody calling a qrp station.

cq cq cq de xx#xxx / qrp k - This a qrp station calling somebody.

cq cq cq de xx#xxx / fox k - Wouldn't this be a fox calling somebody.

Guilty guilty guilty, Many people (me) are not calling, just listening. Would it be kosher for the hunters to call - cq fox cq fox de.... - and possibly get answered by the fox or by other hunters. If all is quiet, if you arn't hearing anybody, at least not anybody body in the hunt, then call the fox and hope the fox or a hunter answers.

Does any of this make sense? But I am still timid, probably won't call,

unless pressured (and not busy working on this dag gone computer....)

de aa3av Gene - Just a wee bit downstream from the nations capital,
careful what water you drink....

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: PDouglas12@aol.com
Subject: [5403] Re: Mo' tnx & some stuff about old radio madness
Message-ID: <951111004824_103658764@mail02.mail.aol.com>

Hey Nils,
Remember when Carl and Jerry fell down the factory chimney and had to build a
spark gap xmtr to call SOS?

If you don't remember Carl and Jerry, please leave the classroom.

Preston WJ2V

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [5397] Re: Need for Speed
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.951110140039.16917C-1000000@vortex>

Hi Dave,

Good questions, and most of us all went through the same
thing.

I have found that contesting and chasing DX are very good
ways to get the speed up. And to break the habit of having
to write everything down, put the rig in the car! You will
soon find that you are getting what is being said with no
trouble.

Don't try to send fast. Try to send very good CW. A short time
ago you couldn't send 5wpm. Soon, you will be sending 30+, then
40+ etc. Give it time.

But remember to have fun. Without having fun you will never learn
to really enjoy CW. Having fun at 5 wpm is much better than
going along at 45 wpm and not having fun!

Congratulations on the fast upgrade. cul,

>I just talked to Dick (?) at Oak Hills and asked about the progress of the
>Explorer II kits. [...] He expects to begin shipping by the end of next week.

>>>==>PStJTT

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Pat Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>
Subject: [5392] Re: QRP QSO Format
Message-ID: <199511102144.QAA105368@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

So you're arguing we should have our own stilted, empty QSO format rather than think, just like the Big Boys do? It's a thought.

>>>==>PStJTT

=====

Patrick Taber	Email: ptaber@logicraft.com
Principal Software Engineer	Phone: (603) 880-0300
Logicraft Information Services	Fax: (603) 880-7229
22 Cotton Road	
Nashua N.H. 03063	Also known as: KC1TD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Monte Stark <ku7y@sage.dri.edu>
Subject: [5395] Re: QRP QSO Format
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.90.951110135618.16917A-1000000@vortex>

NO

cul,

73, Ron,

.....KU7Y.....ARCI #8829.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
...ku7y@sage.dri.edu.....Sun Valley, Nevada....
.....ARRL.....NorCal #330.....NRA LIFE.....

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: H Smith <hbs@crl.com>
Subject: [5402] Re: QRP QSO Format
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951110204247.25574B-1000000@crl3.crl.com>

Marshall,

You have a good point, I understand what you are saying.

Yes the normal QSO, whether it be CW or SSB starts with some plesantries,
much like an eyeball to eyeball QSO:

Hi howareya
finethanks howru
fine....etc

In CW QSOs, I use that first round to copy down the name, qth, and report
(if one is given). If I am in the car, I am repeating his/her name to
myself so I wont forget it. (Forgetting a name is a common problem with
mobile CW :-)

What you are saying about the quick, short exchange makes sense some
times when the signals are way down. In many cases, it is best to keep
all of the xmissions short. Sometimes I cant even detect a BK, I need to
hear that the other station is turning it over it over to me. (NA5K de
W5FWR K)

When we strap on that set of headphones and grab that key, we become Communicators. We are attempting to send globs of information to another person in the best way possible. It may take DSP or ESP or whatever, but we do it never-the-less.

And now my point. We do it using the best method for the current conditions.

That's why nobody wants a standard.

The FCC tells us how often we must identify. Beyond that, it is left up to the individual.

If the conditions dictate that I use an abbreviated exchange as you suggested, then it is only prudent that I do it.

So many times our QSO format is determined by the band conditions. With experience, hopefully, we learn how to adapt our QSOs to those conditions.

This is only an opinion...

CUL,

Smitty NA5K

Henry Smith (hbs@crl.com)

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Allen Jones <ajones@adsnet.com>
Subject: [5378] Re: QRP+ Mods
Message-ID: <199511101739.LAA15114@alice.adsnet.com>

At 10:51 AM 11/10/95 EST, you wrote:

>Is there a FAQ or list of mods for the QRP+? I'm interested in the mod
>that has been mentioned about increasing the SSB power out by
>installing a couple of pots in the mic amp circuit. My QRP+ seems
>to put out about 1.5W on SSB. TNX.

>

>

>-----
>Mike Rioux, NW1J 508-659-6347
>FTP Software, Inc. FAX: 508-659-6112
>2 High St. mrioux@ftp.com
>No. Andover, MA 01845
>Six of One

I would also be interested in this info. I am using the MFJ mike supplied by Index and get about 2.5 W out. Also, is there a fix for the loud pop when the AGC kicks in on super strong signals? During the SS I ended up having the 20db attenuator switched in full time. Still had the problem with the big QRO stations. It got so annoying that I finally switched to my Icom 736 for the last few hours. My Plus is only a month old (#1010) so I would assume that I have the most up to date production.

72/3 de Allen, K9DZE

=====
Allen Jones K9DZE ajones@adsnet.com
Michigan City, Indiana EN61nq
ARCI G-QRP NorCal
=====

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: LVE1@inel.gov (Larry East)
Subject: [5368] RE: QRP+ on BC Band
Message-ID: <9511101534.AA13521@garnet.inel.gov>

>Anyone know if there is any thought of having the general coverage
>range of the QRP+ go from 550 Khz to 30 Mhz. Although, I'm not sure
>how well AM would come through the 2.4Khz filter.
>

There is a high-pass filter just before the first mixer that is intended to attenuate everything below about 1.6 MHz or so -- presumably to keep strong local BC stations from overloading the receiver. So, you would have to retune or eliminate this filter in addition to extending the LO tuning range.

If you want to listen to BC stations, I would suggest you just buy a cheap little transistor radio...

72, Larry W1HUE/7

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Joe Gervais <vole@primenet.com>
Subject: [5364] Re: SS...NO LUCK
Message-ID: <199511101456.HAA29151@usr3.primenet.com>

Bob, KC5RAS, wrote:

> Well, the sweepstakes didn't turn out so well for me. Running about 3 watts

> from my Yaesu FT-101e on 40 meters, almost no one answered my calls. After 4
> hours on Saturday nite with only 2 QSOs to show for the effort, I gave up,
> hoping that things would be better in the morning on 20 meters. Sunday
> morning, I tried again on 20 and 15, calling only the strongest stations.
> Still no good. I guess I'll have to take a closer look at my dipole... :-)

Hi Bob,

Sorry to hear about your weekend. Assuming your antenna was at least marginally efficient I wonder if the problem was more of a zero-beat issue. I noticed this myself over the weekend - everyone (myself included) who could was using the narrowest filter possible and unless you were right on the mark, they didn't hear you.

A few times after I finished a run of stations (sometimes calling CQ works!) I would start tuning around and suddenly hear another station calling me. Since I'd cranked my filter down to 100Hz to cut out QRM, even if they were off by a frog's hair I didn't hear 'em. Needless to say my new rule is to ease off on the filter and *listen* after a pileup dries out on me!

By the way, was I the only one wishing my filter could get *tighter* than 100Hz? Sheesh! Never thought I'd see the day... My QRP+ has made me a very happy ham. :-)

73/72 de KC7NEV (ex-KD6PRD/7),

- Joe, vole@primenet.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: [5384] Re: Stupid ? @ Wilderness
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.951110095217.1287E-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

Bob, Not yet. Call Bob at (415) 494-3806. 72, Dave, W6EMD

On Thu, 9 Nov 1995, Bob Smith wrote:

> Trying to put together a club purchase of N40A's. Is there a e-mail address
> for Wilderness Radio?
>
>

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995

From: Pete Hardie <hardie@duke.usask.ca>
Subject: [5371] Re: UTC Explained
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.951110100957.32283C-1000000@duke.usask.ca>

On Fri, 10 Nov 1995 cebik@UTKVTX.UTCC.UTK.EDU wrote:

> And, of course, UTC follows the French order of words,

That's the explanation I've heard. But

> You can catch the difference on CHU.

I've listened to CHU many times and, in French, the announcement is
(without the spelling mistakes) Temps Universelle Coordonne.

So it ought to be TUC.

> Now the embarrassing question: how many on the list on the evening of
> shift between daylight Savings Time and Standard Time went ahead and
> changed their UTC shack clocks as well?

Here in Saskatchewan we save ourselves that embarrassment by not using DST
at all.

73 de Pete
ve5va.qrp@usask.ca

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: "Robert J. Gobrick" <rgobrick@public.compusult.nf.ca>
Subject: [5383] Re: UTC Explained
Message-ID: <199511101802.0AA06879@public.compusult.nf.ca>

Ernie,

Are you sure you are not a writer for Gateway 2000 computers. If you get a
chance to talk to someone who has a Gateway computer ask to see the latest
issue of the Gateway 2000 magazine - they are really into "cow" things and
utter items...

73/72 bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

At 08:36 AM 11/10/95 EST, you wrote:
>>Anyone want to tackle the difference between UTC and GMT?
>>
>>Mark AA7TA

-Dale

```
=====
Dale S. Anderson
Hewlett-Packard, Co
SMD0-E/W NPI Process, Software Development Engineering
Exeter NH, Roseville and Cupertino CA
..but telecommuting from, HP CIO-FC, Fort Collins, CO
=====
```

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Nov 11 14:41:00 1995
From: Pat Taber <ptaber@logiccraft.com>
Subject: [5393] Re: What?! UTC-disadvantaged HAMS?
Message-ID: <199511102142.QAA89477@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

```
>
>>You once stayed up until midnight? Pat, you REALLY need to get out of
>>the house more. Hmmm... I bet I know what YOU do for a living!
>>
>>> Patrick Taber
>>> Principal Software Engineer
>>
>>Uhh huh... thought so.
>>
>>:-) vy 73 =paul= wb8zjl
>>
>
>
> ??? I'm not humor impaired or anything, but I don't get it. [...]
```

Sounds an awful lot like "I don't have a drinking problem, but I get drunk every night...." ;-)

I thought it was funny, and it was aimed at me. It's just friendly chatter. It could have been any job listed at in my sig file and it still would have worked.

>>>==>PStJTT

```
=====
Patrick Taber                                Email: ptaber@logiccraft.com
Principal Software Engineer                  Phone: (603) 880-0300
Logiccraft Information Services              Fax: (603) 880-7229
22 Cotton Road
Nashua N.H. 03063                          Also known as: KC1TD
```